

28th, 1838, under the name here given: afterwards by Mr. Gray under the name of *H. Tasmanei* (vide Ann. Nat. Hist. vol. i. p. 108. for April 1st, 1838). Mr. Gray's description of this animal is manifestly independent of mine, since his paper, though only published on the 1st of April, is dated February 10. My own knowledge, both of this species and *M. fruticus*, dates from November last, when I had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them through the kindness of Mr. Gould: the question between us, therefore, on this point is merely one of precedence.*

XXIV.—*Information respecting Botanical Travellers.*

THE following interesting communication has been received from George Bentham, Esq., Secretary to the Horticultural Society, &c.

M. Theodor Kotschy, a botanical collector from Vienna, joined as botanist an expedition of Austrian geologists sent to search for useful fossils in the domain of the Viceroy of Egypt. With this expedition he touched at Greece in the year 1836, from thence went to Cairo, and after a very short stay in Syria, he spent two of the most favourable summer months of that year in the little-known chain of the Taurus. From this country he transmitted to Vienna a considerable collection of dried plants, containing many species entirely new, and many others only known by the collections of Tournefort and other older botanists, and only now to be found in a very few herbaria.

From Syria M. Kotschy proceeded in 1837 to Nubia and Abyssinia, and at the time the last news were received from him at Vienna, he was in the most southern parts of Cordofan and Darfour, between 10° and 11° N. lat., and was expecting, after the rainy season, to penetrate still further south. He represents the vegetation of these countries as in the highest degree remarkable and imposing. The expedition had already met with several troops of elephants and of giraffes, and Mr. Kotschy also mentions some stems of *Adansonia* of an enormous size. It is probable he may be mistaken as to the iden-

* Having intimated to Mr. Gray the subject of Mr. Ogilby's communication, we have received from him the following note, which he had intended to send us last month, but had mislaid.—EDIT.

Antilope Zebra. I find that Mr. Ogilby, in a notice of some other Antelopes, in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1836, p. 121, had previously given the name of *Antilope Doria* to the skins of this animal noticed by Mr. Bennett; but as he gives no additional particulars, and as the name is only incidentally mentioned, and does not even occur in the index of the volume, I had overlooked it.—J. E. GRAY.

tity of these trees with the *Adansonia* of Senegal ; but it will not be the less interesting, should this be the case, to ascertain what vegetable giant in Western Africa represents the colossus of the East.

Some sets of M. Kotschy's Taurus and Syrian plants, consisting of from 230 to 260 species, most of them named, may still be had at the rate of about thirty shillings the hundred, besides the carriage from Vienna. The collections from Nubia are on their way to Vienna, and the price will only be fixed after their arrival there.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A History of British Reptiles. By Thomas Bell, Professor of Zoology in King's College, London. Illustrated by a Wood Cut of each Species, with some of the varieties, and numerous Vignettes, No. I. 8vo. Van Voorst, London, 1838.

THIS is the first number of another portion of M. Van Voorst's series of works illustrating the British Fauna, and in its general character we think it one of the very best. The figures are well and *scientifically* drawn, and are beautifully cut. The descriptive part is also excellent, and enters at once into the difficult parts of the synonymy, and the distinctions between the species of our reptiles which are allied to each other, or to those of the continent. We have only one objection ; the work is a history of BRITISH REPTILES, but the range of the species out of England is scarcely touched on. This information, it is true, is difficult to be procured from actual observation, but there are surely persons in both the sister divisions of our islands who would have willingly communicated what they knew.

The number commences with the two turtles (*Chelonia imbricata* and *Sphargis coriacea*) which possess so slender a claim to a place in our Fauna. We would consider the instances where both species have been found within the range as entirely accidental. And it seems questionable even that either of them were wafted to our shores, from having mistaken their course, or from an extraordinary war of elements. The *Lacertidæ* follow next, and in the description of the first, the application of *Lacerta agilis*, Linn., to the proper animal seems clearly made out, and the fact of our possessing two species, members of distinct genera, established without a doubt. We are not aware that the *L. agilis*, Linn. and Bell, *L. Stirpium* of Jenyns, has yet been discovered in Scotland ; since the publication of the 'Manual' by the last-named naturalist we have been look-

ing anxiously for it, but in all the inland localities the little *Zootoca vivipara* only occurs. The latter species, which Mr. Bell remarks extends "even into Scotland," is most abundant, and ranges far to the north. We have seen it on the southern confines of Sutherland and Ross-shire, and from thence to the English border; it is common on all the subalpine heaths reaching to a considerable elevation. It is also frequent on the sandy downs of the coast where heath and bent-grass abound, and where the true *L. agilis* might be expected. We would remark of Mr. Bell's figure or cut of this pretty reptile, that the common Scotch variety is more distinctly marked than that which he has exhibited, the interior of the lateral dark markings being bordered by a yellowish white line, clearly conspicuous even when the creature is running. In a specimen of what appears to be this reptile, taken on the coast, the scales containing the femoral pores are larger than what is stated. They appear as large as those represented in the cut at page 21, but are *round* and *oval*, not of the triangular form seen in fig. *a*. The animal, we think, agrees in other parts with the characters given of *Z. vivipara*, and in the proportion of the toes and toothless palate.

The subject of the next figure and description, *Anguis fragilis*, is also common in the south of Scotland. We have found it most commonly in dry, stony, subalpine situations, where it easily finds a retreat on the appearance of danger.

A beautifully cut figure of the common snake follows, but as the description is just commenced, we leave it till the publication of the next number.

The Birds of Australia and the adjacent Islands. By John Gould, F.L.S. Part II. Folio. London, 1838.

We formerly (in the Mag. of Zool. and Bot. vol. ii. p. 357.) noticed the first and commencing number of this work, produced in the same style of art, and on a similar scale, with Mr. Gould's other highly-finished illustrations. The second part is now before us, equal in every respect to its predecessor, and containing figures of the following species: but before making any remark upon them, we cannot avoid alluding to the expedition which our author has in contemplation to make to Australia. Such a journey will be of the highest interest to the traveller; and knowing Mr. Gould's activity in the field, and his qualifications for observation and recording what he does observe, we look forward to his return with an intense interest. Many species have now been forwarded to Europe from this most interesting country, a few of them from very inland districts;

but with the exception of the skin alone, and the description of the outward form of the bird, we have received almost no other information; in fact, we are more deficient in our knowledge of the œconomy of Australian species than of those of any other quarter of the world. This department should be Mr. Gould's great object: he should endeavour to collect everything, together with what he can himself observe, regarding the manners of those species which have given rise to so much speculation among our systematists, and to secure for after-dissection individuals of the various genera, which he well knows have long been desiderata to the comparative anatomist, *Apteryx*, *Menura*, *Alectura*, &c. We firmly trust that health and strength may be spared to him actively to go about his work, and safely to return again to his native country.

Chatura macroptera. Mr. Gould should endeavour to procure information regarding the manners of this bird, particularly its *scansorial* habits. Most of the *Hirundinidæ* make use of the tail as a support when resting, or when constructing their nests; but the authenticity of the fact of their climbing on the face of cliffs in search of food rests scarcely on complete evidence, and it will be a curious circumstance if confirmed, in the œconomy of birds possessing so great extent and power of wing.—*Dacelo cervina*, a beautiful species, and apparently very rare; Mr. Gould remarks that only two specimens are known in London. This is another genus of birds worthy of attention; a good account of their manners would be a valuable acquisition to our knowledge.—*Pachycephala pectoralis*, M. & F. The females of this genus have frequently been described under distinct names from the opposite sex.—*Amadina castanotis*, M. & F.—*Nestor hypopolius*.—*Platycercus hæmatogaster*, n. s.—*Myzomela nigra*, n. s., a curious species, the colours black and white, with nearly the same distribution as in *M. cardinalis*.—*Apteryx Australis*, an interesting figure of this very singular and still little-known bird. Mr. Gould mentions the existence of four specimens in the London collections, and from his examination of them has been led to conclude that it will range among the *Struthionidæ*, (where also Mr. Swainson places it in the tenuirostral type,) but that between the large members of this family and the *Apteryx* there may be supposed to exist several undiscovered intermediate links; indeed he mentions in the description, that at a meeting of the Zoological Society, a native of New Zealand, who was present, when shown the *Apteryx*, stated that he knew another kind, "with a shorter bill."—The last figure in the number is *Ægialitis* (*Charadrius*) *Monachus*, a chastely coloured species, and now not very uncommon in our collections.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Sept. 26th, 1837.—Richard Owen, Esq. in the Chair.

Two small quadrupeds from the Society's collection were exhibited by Mr. Waterhouse, who stated that he believed them to be undescribed species. The first was characterized as

GALAGO ALLENI. *Gal. auribus permagnis, digitis perlongis; vellere intensè plumbeo, rufescente lavato; corpore subtùs flavo lavato.*

Longitudo ab apice rostri ad caudæ basin, 8 unc. 1 lin.; caudæ, 10 unc.; auris, 1 unc. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.: latitudo auris, 11 lin.: longitudo pollicis antipedum, 6 lin.; digiti longissimi, 1 unc. 1 lin.; pollicis pedum posticorum, 7 lin.; digiti longissimi, 1 unc. 2 lin.; pedis postici a calce ad apicem digitorum, 2 unc. 11 lin.

Hab. Fernando Po.

Obs. This specimen, which has four incisors in the upper jaw, and six in the lower, is about the same size as the *Galago Senegalensis*, but may be readily distinguished from that species by the greater size of the ears, (the length of which is equal to the distance between the tip of the muzzle and the base of the ear,) and the great length of the fingers and toes. In the colouring there is also a difference, *G. Senegalensis* being grey, washed with yellow; whereas *G. Alleni* is of a deep slate grey, all the hairs of the upper parts being of a rusty yellow at the apex, or, as on the fore legs, rusty at the tip. The under parts of the body are of a paler hue than the upper, the hairs being of a dirty yellow colour at the tip; but like those of the upper parts, they are of a slate grey for the greater portion of their length: on the throat and chin each hair is whitish at the apex. The hairs covering the feet are of a deep brown colour. The tail is dusky brown.

PTEROMYS (Sciuropterus) HORSFIELDII. *Pter. fuscus, pilis flavescenti-fuscis crebrè interspersis; corpore subtùs flavescenti-albo, genis et patagio lumbari ad marginem rufescenti-flavis; caudâ subtùs nitidè ferrugineâ; auribus mediocribus.*

Longitudo ab apice rostri ad caudæ basin, 9 unc. 6 lin.; auris, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lin.; tarsi digitorumque, 1 unc. 5 lin.

Obs. This species is of a larger size than the *Pteromys sagitta*, from which it differs in having the ears larger in proportion; the tail more bushy and of an uniform bright rust colour beneath; the margin of the flank skin is of a reddish yellow colour, as are also the sides of the face below the eye. On the upper parts of the body the fur is of a deep brown, each hair being grey at the base; the inter-

spersed longer hairs, which are abundant, are of a bright brown or reddish-yellow colour at the apex. The general tint produced by this mixture is rufous brown. On the under parts of the body the hairs are of a yellow or yellowish white colour, and not grey at the base.

The specimen from which the above description is taken is either from Java or Sumatra. I have taken the liberty of naming it after the author of the 'Zoological Researches in Java,' &c.

Mr. Gould exhibited from his Australian collection of Birds two species of the genus *Platycercus*, which he considered new: for one of these he proposed the specific name of *hæmatonotus*, from the red spot upon its rump; and for the other, which he had very recently received, and which he remarked was one of the most beautiful species of the genus hitherto discovered, that of *hæmatogaster*.

PLATYCERCUS HÆMATONOTUS. *Plat. summo capite, fronte, genis, nuchâ pectoreque smaragdino-viridibus; dorso fusciscenti-viridi; uropygio coccineo; articulo humerali, alâ spuria et pogoniis externis primarium ad partem basalem nitidè cæruleo-nigris, notâ sulphureâ humerali. Remigibus majoribus et minoribus, reatricibusque caudæ duabus intermediis viridibus, hoc colore in cæruleum transeunte ad apicem, apicibus ipsis nigro-fuscis; reatricibus reliquis ad bases viridibus, ad apices et ad pogonia externa cineraceo-albis; abdomine medio flavo; femoribus obscurè cæruleo-viridibus; crisso cineraceo-albo; rostro corneo; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 11 unc.; alæ 5; caudæ $6\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi $\frac{5}{8}$.

PULLUS *intra annum primum, ab ave adultâ differt partibus, quæ in hæc smaragdino-viridibus, in illo cineriscenti-viridibus; necnon crisso haud coccineo, abdomine haud flavo; ast primariis nonnullis, secundariisque ad bases albis.*

Hab. Novâ Cambriâ Australi.

Obs. This species unites *Platycercus* to *Nanodes*, and is in fact so directly intermediate between these genera in size and other characters, that it is difficult to decide to which group it should be referred; but I am induced to include it among the *Platycerci*.

PLATYCERCUS HÆMATOGASTER. *Plat. fronte facieque cæruleis; summo capite, nuchâ, plumisque auricularibus flavescenti-cinereis; pectore cinereo tincto brunneo; plumis auricularibus ad partem superiorem stramineis; uropygio, tectricibusque superioribus caudæ cerinis; articulo humerali pallidè cæruleo; primariis intensè fuscis et ad apicem acutis; secundariis tectricibusque majoribus violaceo-cæruleis; tectricibus minoribus*

alisque ad partem superiorem intensè coccineis ; lateribus tectricibusque inferioribus pallidè flavis ; abdomine medio nitidè coccineo ; plumis duabus intermediis caudæ ad bases pallidè olivaceo-viridibus ad apices in cæruleum transeunte. Reliquis plumis ad bases intensè cæruleis ad apices in album transeunte ; rostro corneo ; pedibus fuscis.

Long. tot. 12 unc. ; alæ $\frac{3}{8}$; caudæ 7 ; tarsi $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. Novâ Cambriâ Australi.

Mr. Gould also exhibited, on the part of Mr. Burton, a new species of Kingfisher, from the collection at Fort Pitt, Chatham, belonging to the genus *Ceyx*, of Lacépède. Mr. Burton had proposed to characterize it under the specific name of *microsoma*.

Ceyx microsoma. *Ceyx subcristata, capite caudâque suprâ, nuchâ et humeris rufis ; strigâ ab oculis ad nucham (ponè oculos leviter, apud nucham intensè) dorso et uropygio hyalino splendentibus ; alis brunneis, pogoniis remigum internis rufo marginatis, tectricibus punctis hyalinis ornatis : infrâ pallidè rufa hóc colore apud ventrem dilutiore ; mento, gulâ et strigâ auriculari albidis : rostro prægrandi, aurantiaco. Pedibus rubris.*

Long. corp. $4\frac{1}{2}$ unc. ; capitis 2 ; rostri ab apice ad rectum $1\frac{1}{2}$; caudæ 1.

Hab. in Indiâ Maderaspatanâ.

Mr. Gould afterwards exhibited, on the part of the same gentleman, a specimen of the genus *Caprimulgus*, supposed to be the female of *C. monticolus*, and of which Mr. Burton had furnished the following description :

CAPRIMULGUS MONTICOLUS, Franklin*. *Fœmina? Capr. pallidior mari : remigibus maculâ notatis rufâ, ubi mas gaudet albâ ; jugulo rufo tincto ; caudâ rufâ nigro fasciatâ et inspersâ, rufo rectrices apud exteriores dominante, caudâque externâ maris albo omninò carente.*

Formâ et staturâ mari simillimâ.

Hab. in Indiâ septentrionali. In Musæo Medico-militari, Chatham.

Obs. The general form, character and colouring of this specimen harmonize so perfectly with those of *Caprimulgus monticolus*, that I have thought it safe to consider it as the female, until local observation or dissection shall have decided the question : at all events, it is new, and hitherto undescribed.

* Proceedings of the Committee of Science and Correspondence (Zool. Soc.), 1830-1.

A species of the genus *Carduelis*, also from the collection at Chatham, was characterized by Mr. Gould as

CARDUELIS BURTONI. *Card. fronte et regione circum-oculari pulchrè roseis ; vertice genisque nigris ; corpore obscurè fusciscenti-roseo, alis externè nigris, singulis plumis plùs minùsve albo ad apicem notatis ; alà spuria albà ; reatricibus caudæ nigris ; duabus, intermediis ad apicem albis, duabus proximis longius ad apicem albis, reliquis albà notà internè ad basin excurrente ornatis ; rostro pedibusque pallidè fuscis.*

Long. tot. $6\frac{1}{4}$ unc. ; rostri, $\frac{5}{8}$; alæ, $3\frac{7}{8}$; caudæ, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. Himalaya.

Obs. I am indebted to the collection of Fort Pitt, at Chatham, for the knowledge of this very fine species of *Carduelis* : the specimen here characterized is, as far as I am aware, unique. It departs in some respects from the other members of the genus, particularly in the robust form of the beak, which is slightly angulated at the base : the form of its wings and tail, together with their peculiar markings, however, clearly points out that it is only an aberrant species of that group.

I have been induced to give this fine bird the specific appellation of *Burton*, for the purpose of paying a just compliment to Staff-Surgeon Burton, for the warm interest he took in the formation of the Fort Pitt collection, and for the readiness he has at all times evinced to aid in any way the advancement of zoological science.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

The following gentlemen have been elected office-bearers for 1838 ;

President.

ROBERT GRAHAM, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

Vice-Presidents.

JOHN HUTTON BALFOUR, M.D.

DAVID FALCONAR, Esq. of Carlowrie.
Professor CHRISTISON.

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JOHN PERCY, Esq.

Secretary.—WILLIAM HUNTER CAMPBELL, Esq.

Treasurer.—WILLIAM BRAND, W.S.

Curator.—JAMES McNAB, Esq.

Foreign Secretaries.—EDWARD FORBES, Esq. and MARTIN BARRY, M.D.

January 11th, 1838.—Professor Graham, President, in the Chair.

Mr. R. W. Falconer read a Paper “ On the ancient history of the Rose,” in which he gave an account of the rose trees mentioned and

described by the Greek and Roman writers of antiquity ; also of the modes in which roses were cultivated, their periods of flowering, and the various uses to which they were applied. Theophrastus and Pliny appear to have given the fullest account of the rose, the former enumerating five kinds of roses, the latter fifteen, eleven of which, he says, were familiarly known to the Romans. After comparing the descriptions given by these authors with those of Dioscorides, Clusius, and other writers, Mr. Falconer proceeded to give an account of the ancient rosaria or rose plantations, collected from the various works of Pliny, Columella, and Palladius ; also of the means employed for propagating and forcing roses, mentioned by Theophrastus, Didymus, Pliny, and Seneca. The different localities renowned for their roses were next stated ; Nicander, Athenæus, and Pliny, being the principal authorities on this point. Among the ancients the rose was employed medicinally at their festivals and at their sacred ceremonies ; also as an article of luxury at their banquets and for making unguents. The uses of the rose among the Greeks and Romans were nearly the same, the latter nation, however, using them more profusely, and setting a higher value upon them. Anacreon was the first author whom Mr. Falconer could find to have mentioned the rose, and he flourished about 600 years B. C. Myrepsius, a medical writer of the 13th century, was the latest author quoted.

A communication from Mr. Edwin Lees of Worcester was then read, giving an account of a specimen of *Pyrus domestica*, Sm., or Sorb-tree, now growing in Wyre Forest, Worcestershire. Mr. Lees thinks it probable, from the situation of Wyre Forest, on the confines of three counties, Worcester, Salop, and an isolated portion of Stafford, that this locality for *Pyrus domestica* may have been inadvertently multiplied ; and that the station given by Dr. Plot and Ray in the " Moorlands of Staffordshire," may possibly refer to the specimen in question, which, however, is situated in the parish of Rock in Worcestershire, about three miles from Bewdeley. From a close inspection of the locality, Mr. Lees is inclined to think that the tree alluded to is not there indigenous, although probably entitled to an antiquity of not less than 400 years. The vestiges of a habitation and garden he thought might be traced in some bricks and remains near the spot, and in the presence of solitary specimens of *Ligustrum vulgare* and *Prunus domestica*, the only individuals which he observed in the whole forest. The tree when visited in 1836 was much dilapidated, and presented the appearance of extreme old age, in the battered state of its bole, great height (about sixty feet), broken